

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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COMIPAC
CHMAAGCHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USACC TAIWAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 9752

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 33

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SUMMARY. STILL RECOVERING FROM THE JULY 28 TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE, CHINA WAS ROCKED BY ANOTHER MAJOR QUAKE IN SZECHWAN PROVINCE WHILE LESSER TREMORS HIT THE KWANGTUNG AREA. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES WHICH SEEMED TO BE SLACKING OFF, PARTICULARLY IN THE FACE OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS, HAVE STAGED A COMEBACK WITH AN EDITORIAL WARNING ABOUT DEVERTING THE CAMPAIGN. POSTER CRITICISMS REMAIN A FEATURE OF LOCAL POLITICS, WHILE THE PLA'S INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER CAMPAIGN-RELATED AREAS APPEARS TO BE ON A SHARP UPSWING. THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE RED GUARDS PASSED WITH MINIMAL FANFARE ON AUGUST 18. ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, CHINA HAS EXPRESSED IMPLICIT APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO ASIA. ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, IT HAS SPURNED THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 CALL FOR FOUR-POWER TALKS IN AN ARTICLE CONVEYING THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR THE DPRK AUGUST 5 STATEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. EARTHQUAKES

HARD-PRESSED BY NATURAL DISASTERS THAT CHINESE HAVE
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TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE END OF DYNASTIES, THE PRC WAS STRUCK BY A SECOND MAJOR EARTHQUAKE CENTERING AT 32.7 DEGREES NORTH AND 104.1 DEGREES EAST IN NORTHERN SZECHUAN PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO THE AUGUST 17 NCNA ANNOUNCEMENT, THE QUAKE STRUCK AT 2206 HOURS ON AUGUST 16 AND REACHED 7.2 MAGNITUDE BUT DAMAGE WAS "VERY SLIGHT" BECAUSE ADVANCED WARNING WAS GIVEN BY THE SEISMOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID REVEAL THAT CHENG TU MILITARY

REGION MEDICAL UNITS WERE RUSHED TO THE SCENE TO DEAL WITH CASUALTIES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. WHILE THE EPICENTER OF THE QUAKE APPEARS TO BE IN A RELATIVELY UNPOPULATED, MOUNTAINOUS AREA, AN ELECTRIFIED RAIL LINE FROM CHENG TU TO PAOCHI (APPROXIMATELY 70 MILES FROM THE EPICENTER) MAY HAVE SUFFERED DAMAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, INCOMPLETE REPORTS INDICATE THAT ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE MAY HAVE STRUCK IN SHANSI PROVINCE SOME HOURS BEFORE THE SZECHUAN TREMOR (AFP AUGUST 17). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, LOCAL CANTON AUTHORITIES HAD APPARENTLY PREDICTED A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE NEAR HAINAN ISLAND IN KWANGTUNG PROVINCE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE WARNING. LOCAL TRAVELER REPORTS INDICATE THAT CANTON WAS STRUCK BY A MINOR TREMOR, BUT THE HONG KONG OBSERVATORY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EPICENTER. MEANWHILE THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AUGUST 15 ANNOUNCED THAT THE DANGER OF A STRONG EARTHQUAKE IN THE PEKING AREA HAD "IN THE MAIN DISAPPEARED" (PEKING 1611), AND PEKING'S RESIDENTS BEGAN MOVING BACK INTO MOST BUILDINGS (PEKING 1623). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE TO THE TIENSIN-TANGSHAN-FENGAN AREA IS STILL INCOMPLETE (PEKING 1583, 1597, 1598, HONG KONG 9521), BUT THE MASSIVE RELIEF OPERATION IS CONTINUING WITH AID AND RELIEF TEAMS POURING IN FROM MOST OF CHINA'S PROVINCES. THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN HOPEI HAS BUILT UP THE DOMESTIC LEADERSHIP IMAGE OF PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG (PEKING 1603) WITH A CORRESPONDINGLY HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN HANDLING RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION (PARA 7). CONFIDENTIAL
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5. KEEP THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN GOING

PROMOTERS OF THE ANTI-TENG/RIGHT DEVIATIONIST WIND CAMPAIGN SOUGHT TO BRING CONCERN FOR THE CAMPAIGN BACK TO PUBLIC ATTENTION WITH A SERIES OF ARTICLES GIVEN WIDE PLAY IN THE CHINESE MEDIA. HIGHLIGHTED BY A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL ON AUGUST 11, THE CAMPAIGN'S PROPONENTS ARGUED THAT CONCERN FOR THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT SHOULD NOT DETRACT FROM OR DIVERT THE CAMPAIGN. THE EDITORIAL POINTED OUT THAT ENEMIES OF THE PROLETARIAT WILL ALWAYS ATTEMPT TO USE NATURAL DISASTERS TO SIDETRACK REVOLUTIONARY GOALS AND REESTABLISH BOURGEOIS LINES (HONG KONG 9524). ADDED PLAY IN PEOPLE'S DAILY AND RADIO BROADCASTS OF TWO AUGUST RED FLAG ARTICLES (HONG KONG 9646) ALSO HIGHLIGHTED CAMPAIGN

PROMOTERS' CONCERNS THAT CONFIDENCE IN THE PRC LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN SHAKEN BY CHARGES AGAINST TENG AND HIS SUPPORTERS. A PI SHENG ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CAPITALIST ROADERS IN THE PARTY DID NOT MEAN THAT THE PARTY WAS WEAK, WHILE A CHING YEN ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT ONLY BY CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN COULD THE PARTY HOPE TO BUILD GENUINE NATIONAL UNITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. FURTHER SUGGESTING THAT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF COULD INDEED BE DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM THE CAMPAIGN AND GIVING INDIVIDUALS TARRED FOR THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH ENG AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOUP SOME LOST GROUND (WR 32), TROUBLED FUKIEN BOSS LIAO CHIH-KAO BACKED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER 1975-REHABILITATED FUKIEN CADRES RETURNED TO PUBLIC VIEW. FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF REAPPEARANCES BY EQUALLY HARD-PRESSED PROVINCIAL BOSSES PENG CHUNG AND CHIANG WEI-CHING, LIAO'S RETURN INDICATES FUKIEN'S TROUBLES HAVE NOT LED TO THE WHOLESALE REVISION OF PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP (HONG KONG 9750). MEANWHILE, POSTER ATTACKS REMAIN AN IMPORTANT PART OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES WITH USLO TRAVELS UNEARTHING VEHEMENT CHARGES AGAINST HONAN PROVINCIAL LEADER LIU CHIEN-HSUN AND OTHER FUNCTIONAIRES (PEKING 1572).
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7. THE PLA

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AMID SIGNS THAT A JOINT CCP MILITARY COMMISSION-STATE COUNCIL MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY (HONG KONG 9604), MILITARY THEMES ARE BECOMING MORE PROMINENT IN THE PRC MEDIA. TENG'S ATTEMPT TO "RECTIFY" THE ARMY AND TURN IT INTO A TOOL OF "BOURGEOIS RESTORATION" IS BEING ATTACKED, AND THE PLA IS PARTICIPATING MORE IN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN FREQUENT DISCUSSION OF THE URBAN MILITIA AS A BULWARK AGAINST REVISIONISM IN SOCIETY, THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE PLA'S "GOOD EIGHTH COMPANY OF NANKING ROAD" SUGGESTS THAT THE PLA ITSELF MAY BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE CIVILIAN POLITICAL PROCESS. WHILE IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE DEGREE OF PLA PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS WILL RETURN TO ITS CULTURAL REVOLUTION HEYDAY, SOME INDIVIDUALS MAY BE ARGUING FOR GREATER MILITARY INVOLVEMENT TO BOLSTER POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN THOSE PROVINCES THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING ACUTE FACTIONALISM AND LABOR UNREST (HONG KONG 9751).
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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8. LITTLE COVERAGE ON FOUNDING OF RED GUARDS

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE RED GUARDS (AUGUST 18, 1966) PASSED WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE FANFARE. ONLY MEETINGS OF THE PEKING AND SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AND A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE MARKED THE OCCASION WHEN CHAIRMAN MAO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED THE RED GUARDS AS THE GROUP CHOSEN TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS AND EXCERPTS FROM THE ARTICLE WERE BROADCAST BY PEKING RADIO (TEXTS NOT AVAILABLE HERE), WHILE HONG KONG'S PRC-CONTROLLED MEDIA MADE NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF THE ANNIVERSARY. UNCLASSIFIED

9. THE UNITED STATES

AN NCNA WRAP-UP OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN WAS IMPLICITLY FAVORABLE, NOTING THAT THE SOVIETS HAD REACTED TO THE VISIT WITH "UNEASINESS AND ANGER." THE SHAH WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT INCREASED U.S. ARMS SALES TO HIS COUNTRY WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF NEIGHBORING ENEMIES, WHILE A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN THE KISSINGER PARTY IN AFGHANISTAN STATED THE U.S. WAS ANXIOUS TO HELP THAT COUNTRY MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE SOVIET UNION. U.S. OPPOSITION TO PAKISTAN'S PURCHASE OF A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT WAS REPORTED IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, IN CONTRAST TO A LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS TREATMENT WHICH SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE SECRETARY FOR PRESSURING THE PAKISTANIS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

10. IN ANOTHER MEDIA PIECE, THE U.S. WAS CRITICIZED FOR ITS OCCUPATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE. A VISITING NCNA CORRESPONDENT ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. HAS BULLIED THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND ACTED LIKE AN OVERLORD IN THE ZONE. IT SUPPORTED PANAMA'S CLAIMS TO JURISDICTION OVER THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT AS THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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PREPARES TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, THE CORRESPONDENT ALSO WARNED OF THE NEED TO BE ON GUARD LEST THE SOVIETS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND PENETRATE "FROM THE BACK DOOR" (HONG KONG 9659 AND HONG KONG 9498, NCNA AUGUST 13 AND 15). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

11. KOREA

AN AUTHORITATIVE PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE OF AUGUST 15 CONVEYS THE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE BUT FAILS TO INDICATE EXPLICIT PRC GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE DPRK AUGUST 5 STATEMENT ACCUSING THE "U.S.-PAK CLIQUE" OF WAR PROVOCATIONS. IT DECLARES THAT "TENSIONS IN THE KOREAN PENINSUAL MUST BE RELIEVED" BUT DOES NOT DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE PYONGYANG ACCUSATIONS. COMMENTATOR PLACES THE ONUS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION ON THE U.S. BUT SPURNS THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 CALL FOR FOUR-POWER TALKS ON KOREA. EARLIER AT AN AUGUST 14 SHENYANG BANQUET HONORING A DEPARTING KOREAN ARMY ENSEMBLE, A SENIOR PLA OFFICIAL AVOIDED ECHOING THE MORE BELLIGERENT REMARKS OF THE KOREAN SPEAKER ON THE DPRK STATEMENT. HOWEVER, HE CONDEMNED U.S. IMPERIALISM AND THE PAK CLIQUE FOR PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES BY MOVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO SOUTH KOREA WHICH HE NOTED HAD "CREATED TENSIONS." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

12. NCNA ALSO HAS SINGLED OUT THE AUGUST 17 SPEECH TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OF DPRK PREMIER PAK SUNG-CHUL. ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, NCNA'S REPORT ON THE SPEECH NOTED PAK'S CHARGES THAT THE U.S. IS INTRODUCING LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INTO KOREA. IT ALSO REPORTED HIS ACCUSATION THAT THE U.S. IS MASSING TROOPS ALONG THE DMZ AND HIS REJECTION OF PEACE TALKS WHICH INCLUDE PARTIES OTHER THAN THE DPRK AND THE U.S. (HONG KONG 9670 AND 9527 AND NCNA AUGUST 17). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

13. THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

PRC REPORTING ON THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE HAS STRESSED MEMBER COUNTRIES' CONCERN FOR UNITY AND WARNED AGAINST SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO BRING THE MOVEMENT INTO MOSCOW'S ORBIT. A SIGNED PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON THE EVE OF THE CONFERENCE
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CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE "SURPASSED OLD-LINE IMPERIALISM IN BULLYING, PLUNDERING AND CONTROLLING THE ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS IN GREED, FEROCITY AND ARROGANCE." ACORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CHINA IS EXPRESSING A KEEN INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS THROUGH EFFORTS BY ITS EMBASSY IN COLOMBO AND BY A BIG TURNOUT OF CHINESE JOURNALISTS. PRC PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG ALSO SENT A MESSAGE OF GREETING TO THE CONFERENCE (NCNA AUGUST 13-17, REUTERS AUGUST 16). UNCLASSIFIED

14. LAW OF THE SEA

AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE UNDERWAY IN NEW YORK, CHINA HAS EXPRESSED "STRONG MISGIVINGS" ABOUT THE REVISED INFORMAL SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT (RSNT) AND BACKED CALLS FOR DEFINING AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE UNDER STATE JURISDICTION. ON THE ISSUE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WITHIN THE ECONOMIC ZONE OF A COASTAL COUNTRY, THE PRC DELEGATE CRITICIZED THE RSNT FOR PROVIDING THAT THE COASTAL STATE SHALL NOT WITHHOLD ITS CONSENT FOR SUCH RESEARCH. IN EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE 3RD WORLD POSITIONS, THE PRC REPRESENTATIVE ALSO ASSERTED THAT TO ALLOW THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE TO REMAIN PART OF THE HIGH SEAS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO NEGATING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COASTAL STATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHINA HAS CALLED FOR LANDLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES TO ENJOY "REASONABLE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS" IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (NCNA AUGUST 11-15). UNCLASSIFIED

15. THE MIDDLE EAST

WHILE CHINA CONTINUES TO REFRAIN FROM A STATEMENT ON THE PALESTINIAN'S PLIGHT IN LEBANON, AN NCNA CORRESPONDENT NONETHELESS UNLEASHED A LONG BROADSIDE AGAINST THE USSR FOR OVERALL "BETRAYAL" OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. THE CORRESPONDENT CLAIMED THAT THE REAL AIM OF THE RUSSIANS IS TO "ACT AGAINST THE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND SERVE THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPREIALIST NEEDS FOR AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST..." SIMILARLY, ANOTHER NCNA CORRESPONDENT EXPRESSED ONLY

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SLIGHTLY DISGUISED RELIEF THAT THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY HAD LOST OUT TO THE U.S. ON A LARGE WEAPONS SALE TO JORDAN. MEANWHILE, NCNA CONTINUES TO REPORT ON WEST BANK PROTESTS OVER "BRUTAL ISRAELI SUPPRESSION" FOLLOWING THE IMPOSITION OF A VALUE ADDED SURTAX ON ARAB RESIDENTS AUGUST 1 (NCNA AUGUST 11-12 AND 15-16, HONG KONG 9659). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

16. SOUTHERN AFRICA

NCNA HAS CITED REPORTS FROM CAPETOWN ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NOTED ARTICLES CHARGING THAT RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ATTACKED A ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP IN MOZAMBIQUE. ALONG WITH OTHER AFRICAN AND 3RD WORLD CRITICISM OF THE POLICIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, NCNA CARRIED TWO "CORRESPONDENT" ARTICLES ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. ONE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING AZANIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE, WHILE ANOTHER ON THE SAME DAY APPLAUDS THE ROLE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND NAMIBIAN PATROTIC ARMED FORCES IN THE

STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RACIST SOUTHERN AFRICAN AUTHORITIES
(NCNA AUGUST 11-15). UNCLASSIFIED
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